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Page 2

Pending Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method for reducing pulp to powder which comprises grinding pulp by means of a vertical roller mill to produce powdered pulp, wherein the pulp is selected from the group consisting of cotton linter pulp and wood pulp.
2. (Original) A method for reducing pulp to powder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the powdered pulp has an average particle diameter of 20 to 300  $\mu\text{m}$ .
3. (Original) A method for reducing pulp to powder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the powdered pulp has an average particle diameter of 60 to 200  $\mu\text{m}$ .
4. (Previously presented) A process for the production of a cellulose ether, comprising obtaining a powdered pulp by a method as claimed in claim 1, and producing cellulose ether by using the powdered pulp as a starting material.
5. (Previously presented) A process for the production of a cellulose ether, comprising obtaining a powdered pulp by a method as claimed in claim 2, and producing cellulose ether by using the powdered pulp as a starting material.
6. (Previously presented) A process for the production of a cellulose ether, comprising obtaining a powdered pulp by a method as claimed in claim 3, and producing cellulose ether by using the powdered pulp as a starting material.